

1/22/92

Called Elizabeth Nuxell.

William Constable & Co was formed about ^{5/10/1784} 1783?
with Robert Morris, ^{added} Gouverneur Morris, William
Constable & John Rucker as partners. ? June 1784.
name changed to Constable Rucker & Co by
~~end of 1784~~ ^{always a partner} (was Rucker added then.)

John Rucker went abroad about 1784 &
stayed in Europe (England & Holland)
for the firm. He was there in 1785
and probably ordered ~~Nooses~~ ~~travelling~~
~~with Robert Morris in 1784~~
~~Robert & Gouverneur~~ Morris was back & forth betw
Phila & NY in 1785 and travelled with
Robert in 1786 to straighten out matters.

^{after Rucker died}
Gouv^{Morris} first went to Europe in 1789 and stayed
till 1800. He became ^{C.S.} Ambassador to France
when Jefferson went home. Was in England
& Germany. Was in France during French
Revolution.

Constable Papers at NY Public

not the
partnership
contract.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll
The Papers of Robert Morris
Queens College, CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-0904

April 22, 1992

Dear Elizabeth:

Thank you so much for the copies of the Morris letters with the \$ sign. The September 2, 1784 and May 5, 1786 letters seem to be written by a scribe. The June 30, 1786, August 12, 1786 and October 8, 1787 letters seem to be in the hand of Morris. Is this your opinion also? If not please straighten me out.

I will not be publishing the \$ material for a while as I just visited areas around Manchac, Louisiana and am seeking more data there.

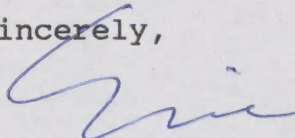
I am convinced that following the 1763 treaty the changeover of the money of account in the Mississippi Valley from French to Spanish is the reason the English and then American merchants in West Florida simplified the peso sign. They were accustomed to the f sign for both sterling and various east coast moneys of account and the livre sign at best was the simple abbreviation l. They wanted a practical and distinctive peso or dollar sign and thus apparently converted the peso sign into an easily written and distinct symbol which could be written for accounting purposes on one level only. The f was such a sign. I wish I had positive proof but there are no other \$ signs found as yet in other jurisdictions.

I am in touch with the Franklin papers.

I have a question you answered for me over the telephone and I didn't write it down. Who were the partners and what was their participation and dates in Constable and Co. and in Constable Rucker & Co.?

It is always a pleasure to exchange thoughts with you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

The Papers of Robert Morris

December 13, 1994

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thanks for all the materials you sent. The glossies were immediately forwarded to the press for inclusion in volume 8.

Enclosed are the first installments on replies. Hopefully, you will receive them on your return from Mexico. I am enclosing a transcript of the Articles of Partnership for William Constable and Company/Constable Rucker and Company, and our draft notes covering the origin of the firm and identification of its members. No doubt we will learn more before volume 9 is finally complete. As previously mentioned the Constable letterbook and accounts for late 1784 through 1786 are missing from the known Constable collections, and relatively few other letters for that period survive. There were no hints about coins in what does survive.

Reviewing our notes regarding the mint that appeared in our volume 7, I see that one of the original pattern coins was given to Samuel Curwen in England in 1784 and that the Indian design attributed to Gouverneur Morris appeared on a coin in 1785, so someone had ready access to the coins and the coin designs for production either in England or in America. In your notes on the Hodder piece, you mention another pattern coin as going to England and one to France. I don't think we had information on those two. Do you have articles on them? As also previously mentioned the alternate New York firm tied to Morris was Daniel Parker and Company with whom Morris was involved in the Empress of China and other voyages. Once Daniel Parker fled to Europe in late 1784, Andrew Craigie handled his affairs in New York. I still think Constable and Company would be the more likely candidate for coin production or importation.

Is it definite the 1783 and 1785 coppers were produced in the same place? Are there equally large numbers extant of each? Could Morris's network have done a trial run in 1783 or 1784, either in America or England, then arranged for a larger production in England in 1785? Were Mr. Ringo's British punches found on both the 1783 and 1785 Novas? So far I have no further evidence of what happened to the mint equipment, but I'll keep my eyes open.

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Elizabeth M. Nuxoll,
Project Director/Coeditor
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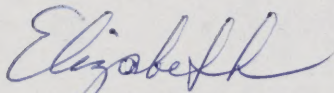
Perusing the Constable Letterbooks at New York Public Library, I found lots of dollar signs from 1784 on (but none before that date). The 1784 dollar signs always follow the number. They appear in letters addressed to merchants in Philadelphia, in the West Indies, and elsewhere, but since they are letterbook copies it is not certain the symbol was used in the recipients' copies, or was only Constable's personal shorthand symbol. However, by December 1786, there is a letter from a merchant in Canton, China, named Affouke who uses \$s before the number in a letter addressed to Constable, Rucker and Company. In 1787 Constable uses the sign both before and after the number, but from 1789 on he always uses it before the number. Constable, like most others you talk about is an English speaking merchant who had strong trade ties with the Spanish colonies, but there is no indication of why he starts using dollars signs, or why they proliferate so quickly from 1784 on in manuscript but only slowly in print in the late 1790s and early 1800s. A few Tench Tilghman and Company (Baltimore) letters for 1784-1786 I've seen lately also have \$s--after the number.

Unfortunately, I have no discoveries on printed dollar signs, and can only say your article sounds plausible. The same for the Portuguese sign, which I have never encountered in the documents available to us.

Would you have copies from the Colonial Newsletter (February 1993?) of the previous article or articles regarding the copper etc. used for the Nova Constellatio coins that are referred to in the article you sent? I couldn't evaluate Hodder's full argument without seeing the earlier data. I took a quick look at the indexes to the Hamilton Papers and the Papers of the Continental Congress to see if they gave clues as to what happened to Morris's supplies of copper or the mint machinery but nothing appeared; perhaps something will eventually show up in Treasury records.

Hope these comments are of some help. Our best regards for happy holidays and a joyful and productive new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth M. Nuxoll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

8/27/95

8/28/95

718-997-5180

Elizabeth M Nuxoll res 718 ~~997~~ 631 5309

Mary A. V. Gallagher res 718 859 5098

Gouverneur Morris bought Morrisiana subject to purchase money mortgages and ~~received~~ the deed was dated April 4, 1787. He had borrowed money to make the ~~down payment~~ ^{down payment} from James McComb who was a partner of William Edgar - William Edgar being William Constable's brother in law (his wife's sister's husband) Morrisiana was ~~located at the corner of~~ ^{located at the corner where} the East River and Harlem River ~~in the Bronx~~ come together, being part of the Bronx.

Gouverneur Morris is listed in the Philadelphia Directory for 1785 (this is the first ~~entry~~ ^{directory}) as residing on Market Street between 2nd & 3rd.

10/20/95 Telephone call from Eliz Nuxoll

See Papers of Robert Morris p. 741

^{Curren}
~~Curren~~ diary says "a young Bartlett" ^{it}
came from America ~~and showed them the~~
copper coin.

20?

It's not Josiah Bartlett who
was in New Hampshire then.

my page 23 Edgar advanced money for
Constable, but not for Rucker

p. 25

Morris changed his partnership
name to

1778? Samuel English & Co when
Phila was occupied by British or before
~~at that time~~ of Superintendent
instead of using Willing & Morris which
but. English died in Oct. 1783
and name was changed ^{they} to
Willing Morris & Swanick

1783 to 1795 ±

Constable Rucker ~~Co~~ was the only NY ptmsh,

The Papers of Robert Morris

December 9, 1995

Dear Eric,

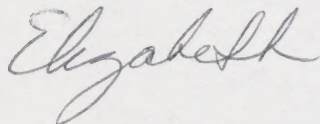
Enclosed is a copy of a note found in the Constable-Pierrepont papers at New York Public Library. It might be eligible for inclusion in your revised book, so I am forwarding it to you for consideration. It is issued by John Pierce for army pay under the auspices of the Board of Treasury. It seems to be issued either on the same blank notes as Morris issued for army pay (but with the Office of Finance heading cut off), or to be issued on similar paper and printing but with Office of Finance eliminated. I think these notes are what are referred to as Pierce's notes--which I had previously considered a reference to final settlement certificates signed by Pierce. I have not looked at the original carefully for watermarks or other identifications--just noticed this on a microfilm of Board of Treasury items in the Constable papers that we had made for research for volume 9.

We can no doubt check further should the note be of any interest to you.

Just received a call saying volume 8 should be published this month and will start to be available for distribution around the middle of January.

With best wishes for a happy holiday and success in all your endeavors in the new year.

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll



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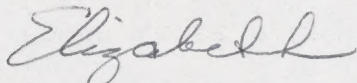
The Papers of Robert Morris

January 5, 1996

Dear Eric:

Found these notes in our search of Treasury Records from the National Archives. Thought they might shed additional light on the questions about copper used for the coins made by the Treasury Dept. I remember you sent me some debate on that subject from one of the numismatic publications. Some of the films is not completely clear, so I'm not absolutely sure of our transcription. Should the material be useful we could print the original text from the microfilm.

Hope this material is of value. Happy New Year.



Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

RECEIVED 27 JAN 1996

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Treasury Blotter 15

1791

18 Oct

[8274]: [also Treasury Journals, 2428]

General Account of Copper rec'd from the Commissary General's Department Dr. to Sunds:

For 71,174 lbs Rough copper which was recd from the Military stores department and delivered to Jas. Jarvis under two Contracts entered into by him the 12th May 1787 with the late Commissioners of the Board of Treasury for Supplying Quantities of Copper Coin: To Benjamin Dudley his receipt for 17t.12C.1 wrought Copper folio 593 For the said 17 tons 12 hund. 12Qr which was deld. by Mr. John Ross of Philada to said B. Dudley agreeable to an Order of Robt Morris Esqr afterwards deld. to Mr. Jarvis by Order of the Treasury Board 2.630.12

[8275]: To Sales of Stores in the Military and Ordinance Stores Department: For 35,946 1/2 lbs of Copper which came from Edwd Russell of Boston to the late board of Treasury and afterwards deld. to Mr. J. Jarvis by their Order 7.922 40/

For the difference which arises between extension of 35,288 lbs. Copper as computd in preceding entry @11 1/4 12,197.89 4275.49 4,828.1

James Jarvis h/a under two Contracts entered into with the Commissioners of the late Board of Treasury of the 12 May for supplying certain quantities of Copper Coin folio 761 Dr to General Account of Copper delivered from the Commissary General Department folio 998

For Seventy One thousand one hundred and Seventy four & 1/2 rough Copper delivd him under Contract at 11/4 Sterling P lb as appears by the Report of the Auditor of the Treasury No 1671 Admitted and Certified by the Comptroller the 31 Oct and Cancelled

[8276]: Hillegas late Treasurer of the US his account of Copper Coin recd from Jarvis under contract made by the late board of Treasury the 12 May 1787 [Journals 2429] Balance due from Jarvis 10,842.24 transferred to books of new govt. [Fol. 1116]: For 8968 lbs coined copper delivered by said Jarvis to sd. Hillegas which at 2 1/4 Coined copper per dollar being the price stipulated per contract = 3985 77/

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll
The Papers of Robert Morris
Queen's College, CUNY
Flushing, NY 11367-1597

January 29, 1996

Dear Elizabeth:

Your interesting letter of December 9, 1995 was received just before Evelyn and I took off for the Arabian Gulf. We were in Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Oman. What an eye opening experience! We came home with the flu and are just getting back to normal. Happy new year.

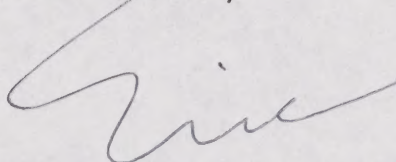
The November 12, 1785 Pierce note for Army pay has a fixed denomination (printed twice) and is payable to bearer. In my view it would not be in that form unless intended for circulation prior to its due date in 6 months. What do you think "No. 7" means? Could it mean a series of notes were issued to one soldier? Are there other denominations?

If you have a chance to examine the original I will include it in my 4th edition. I need the exact size and any other descriptive detail. Maybe you can get a direct photocopy. I hope volume 8 is ready to be ordered. You should be very proud of it.

I have your January 5, 1996 letter on Federal copper but will let that rest for the present.

With continued thanks for all your guidance and help.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eric', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Eric P. Newman

The Papers of Robert Morris

March 19, 1996

Dear Eric,

I finally got to the library to check out the Pierce note. It is a cut down version of one of Morris's 6 month notes. The Office of Finance part and the 1783 date were cut off the top and the written parts were filled in differently than the Morris notes would have been.

It had the National Debt water mark (all caps) and the Capital letter N watermark underneath the National Debt mark.

It was on yellowish paper and was not cut down evenly but measured 6 3/8 inches wide and 2 14/16-2 15/16 inches long.

I believe that the number filled in meant that it was the 7th note of that denomination issued by John Pierce as Paymaster General.

According to Treasury Waste Book E (p. 31), under date of November 12, 1785, a warrant was issued on that date to enable Pierce to discharge one month's pay to non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the late company of Artillery at West Point commanded by Captain Lieutenant Johnston. The bill was probably one of those he issued for that payment.

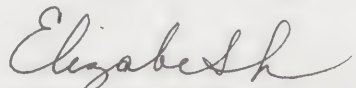
I have ordered a slide and a color print of the note from the New York Public Library but it won't arrive for a few more weeks. If you decided to publish it you probably could borrow my print, or you could order your own, but in either case you would have to get permission to publish from the library.

The source is the Constable-Pierrepont Papers, New York Public Library.
(Box 5, folder marked Board of Treasury Papers, 1785-1786).

Hope this information will be of help.

As you no doubt know I will be giving the Stack lecture at the Numismatic Society in April. If you are the one who recommended me I thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth M. Nuxoll

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

For Release: MARCH 21, 1996

Contact: Arlene P. Jacobs

ELIZABETH NUXOLL TO DELIVER STACK LECTURE

As had been true since 1992, the Stack Memorial Lecture will be devoted to a topic in the numismatic history of the United States. The 1996 program will be delivered on Saturday, April 13, 1996, at 3:00 PM by Dr. Elizabeth M. Nuxoll.

Dr. Nuxoll is the project director and co-editor of the Papers of Robert Morris, which is being sponsored by Queens College of the City University of New York, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The volume (eight have appeared so far) are being published by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Volume seven of the papers contained a number of documents of particular interest to numismatists. The most spectacular were the documents associated with the Nova Constellation patterns; but there is also much about Morris's attempts to find ways to fund the government after the collapse of the Continental Currency and the early records of the Bank of North America.

The project of publishing the papers of Robert Morris has also been the recipient of a grant from the Donald Groves Fund of the American Numismatic Society.

The Stack Memorial Lecture is presented at the AN each April through the courtesy of the Stack Family of New York.

There will be a reception afterward. The lecture and reception are free to the public. The AN is located at the and Broadway.



THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1865)

For Release:

MARCH 23, 1996

Contact: Arlene P. Jacobs

CORRECTED RELEASE

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The Joseph B. and Morton M. Stack Memorial Lecture

Saturday, April 13, 1996
3:00 p.m.

Dr. Elizabeth M. Nuxoll
Project Director and Co-editor
The Papers of Robert Morris
Queens College/CUNY
Flushing, New York

"A Generation of Numismatic Co-operation:
Findings on the Notes and Coins of the
Confederation through the Papers of Robert Morris."

A reception will follow.

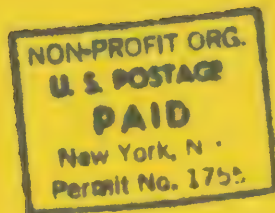
This lecture and the reception
have been made possible through
the generosity of the Stack family.

The American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York, NY 10032
(212) 234-3130
Info@AmNumSoc.Org

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET

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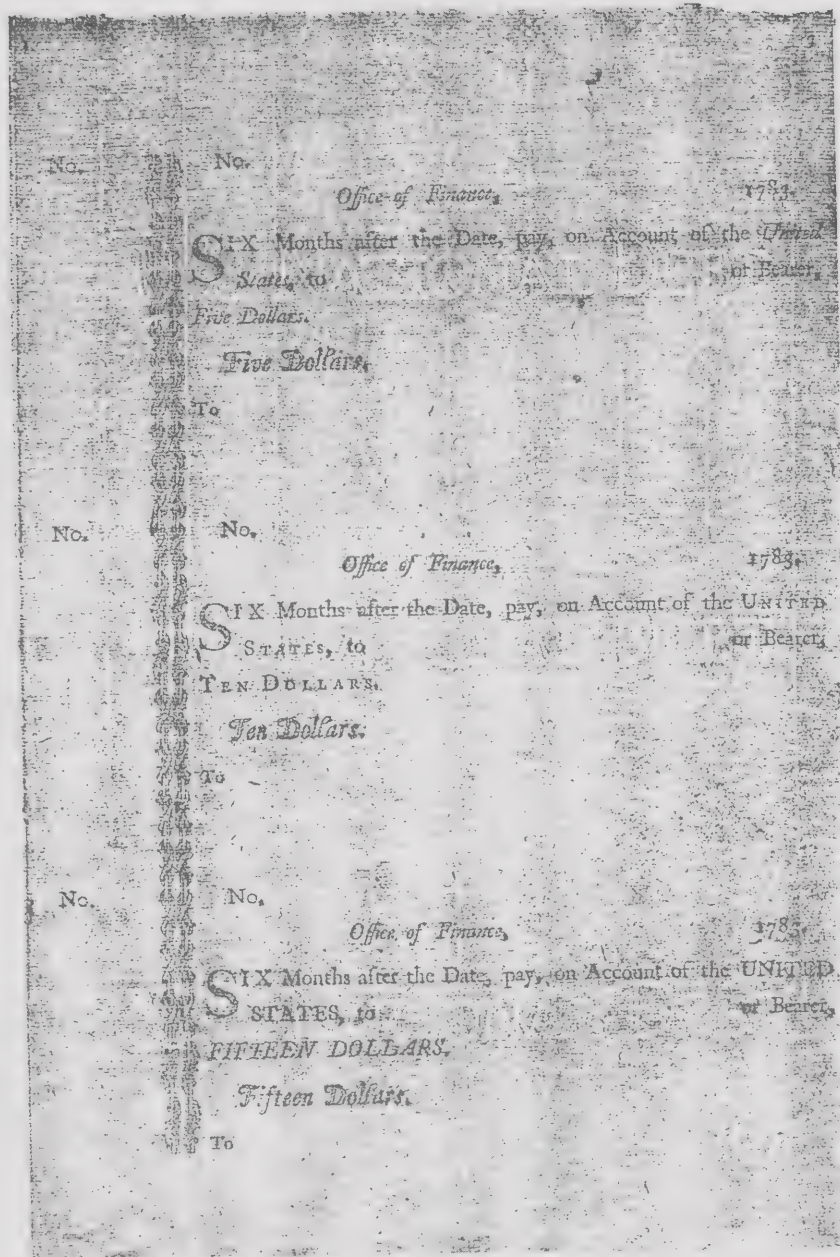
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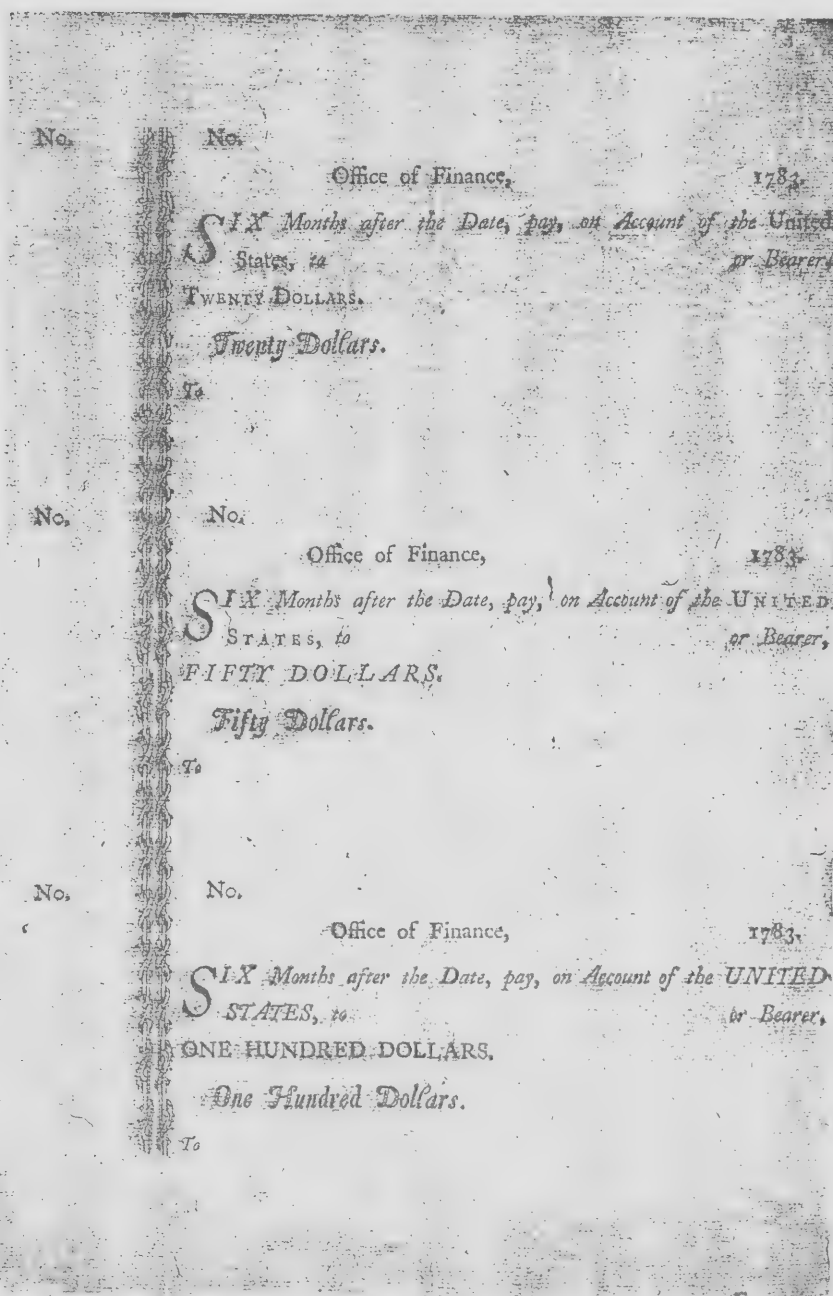
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Sample Page (Blank) of Robert Morris's Notes for Five, Ten, and Fifteen Dollars Issued at Six Month's Sight, 1783

Papers of Robert Morris Vol VIII



Sample Page (Blank) of Robert Morris's Notes for Twenty, Fifty, and One Hundred Dollars Issued at Six Month's Sight, 1783

(third)
No 148
Exch^d of £150 ——— Sterling Paid^d April 6th 1786
At Sixty days sight pay this third of Exchange (first, second and
fourth not paid) to Mr Wm Bell ——— or order
One Hundred and Fifty Pounds ——— Sterling
value received ——— which place to account as p^d advice
To Mr John Rucker —
London

1786 Colonial Draft on London for £150 signed by Robert
Morris, Financier of the Revolution and signer of the De-
claration of Independence.

Rucker

EP Neumann collect

pay the within contents to
Dennis DuBord Esq. or order

William Bell

219

Philadelphia

1781

For Value received. I promise to pay on Demand
to or Bills of Exchange at Lady Carrs Sight for Forty Dollars in
Sterling or London One Hundred Current Guilders on Amsterdam
or Two Hundred and sixteen livres on Paris at the option
of the Holder

Forty Dollars

-175-

SIX Months after the Date, pay, on Account of the United
States, to *William Johnston* or Bearer,

Five Dollars. No. 7. Pay Office: Nov. 17. 1785

Five Dollars. By order of the Board of Treasury

To The Receivers of Continental, Inscribed, & by
D Taxes. " " "

No

Philadelphia

1783

For Value received. I promise to pay on Demand
to ^{or} Forty Dollars in
Coin or Bill of Exchange at Eighty up. David Ford, Agent, Bankers
in London One Hundred current Guilders on Amsterdam
one hundred and fifteen livres on Paris at the option
of the Holder

Forty Dollars,

Smythe
3/31/93 Auction

Robert Morris's note

*FAX of Photocopy of sent by
Papers of Robert Morris*

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris
and William Constable

May 10, 1784

Be it remembered that Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, through a mutual Confidence in each other, have entered into a joint Copartnership as Merchants, under the firm of William Constable & Company; the said Partnership to commence on the day of the Date hereof, and to continue for Seven Years thence next ensuing, if the Parties shall live so long, and be mutually content to continue the same. And they have thereupon settled the following Articles or Conditions.

Article 1st

Each of the said Parties shall advance and putt into the Stock of this House the sum of Five thousand pounds Pennsylvania Currency in Specie, at the rate of seven shillings and six pence for a Mexican Dollar, which Sum making in the whole Fifteen thousand Pounds shall be the trading Capital of said Copartnership. But as the whole of the said Capital is not immediately necessary, each of the parties shall putt into the Hands of William Constable his Note to William Constable & Co. for the said Sum, and the same shall be paid as the Business may require.

Article 2d

The said trading Capital or Stock shall be employed by the said Wm Constable in a House of Commerce at Newyork in such

lawfull Commercial Business and Adventures as shall be mutually approved of by the said Parties.

Article 3d

A sett of Books shall be provided at the Expence of the Copartnership in which shall be kept by the said William Constable regular and fair Entries of all the Business, and Accounts of the said Company; He being to account fairly and honestly for all the Dealings and Transactions of said Company, and also for all Monies and Goods which they may receive and all Debts which may become due to them during the term of this Agreement. And He shall settle the Cash Account at least once a Month, and Balance the Books at the end of every Year.

Article 4th

The other Parties shall always have full and free access to all the Books and papers relating to this Concern, and no Adventure shall be undertaken, or purchase or Sale made which shall be objected to by either of the Parties; and the said Wm. Constable shall furnish the said Robert Morris every Month with a Copy of the Waste Books.

Article 5th

The said William Constable shall conduct the said Business to the best of his skill and Abilities for the Interest and Honour of the Parties, and shall not during the continuance of the Copartnership engage in any Business, other than what shall appertain thereto, or be for the benefit thereof.

Article 6th

The said William Constable shall annually draw out of the Cash of the said Company Four Hundred and fifty pounds money aforesaid as an Allowance towards the extra Expences of House keeping occasioned by his being resident where the Business of the House is transacted, which Sum together with the rent of Stores, Clerk hire, Stationary, and other incidental Expences attending the Business shall be charged to Profit and Loss in the Company's Books, and be equally borne by the Parties hereto.

Article 7th

Each of the Parties shall be paid a Dividend of Seven Hundred and fifty pounds of the Money aforesaid annually for their Subsistance from the Cash of the Company; the Sums so paid to be charged to the respective Accounts of Stock of the Parties in the Company's Books, but the said Dividend shall arise only upon the actual payments of Money made on the Notes abovementioned, and in proportion to such actual payments. And it is further understood that neither of the said parties, except the said William Constable, shall draw the full amount of the said Dividend if the profits shall not be sufficient for the payment thereof, but in such Case they shall only draw in proportion to such Profits, so as not to reduce the Capital Stock.

Article 8th

All Commissions arising or to arise from Consignments, Orders or Business done or transacted of any kind whatsoever by the said William Constable for the said Company, as well

as all Profits, Advantages, and Emoluments, arising from the Trade Business, or Transactions by him undertaken, or executed on Account of the said Company, shall be equally divided between the said Parties, and in like manner all Losses by Fires, Robbery, Adventures, Voyages, bad Debts, or other unavoidable Accidents or Circumstances shall be equally borne and sustained by the Parties hereto.

Article 9th

If either of the Parties shall choose to decline or dissolve the Copartnership before the expiration of the term of Seven Years, He shall be at liberty so to do after giving notice of his intention and desire to the other Parties at least twelve Months before, at the end whereof and not before or without such previous notice the Partnership shall be dissolved, as it also shall be upon the Death of either of the Parties hereto, unless that upon the Death of the said Robert Morris He should direct by his Will that the said Partnership be continued to the end of the term for the benefit of his Heirs or any of them, and it shall be agreeable to the other Parties to continue, in which Case the said partnership shall be continued, notwithstanding the Death of the said Robert Morris.

Article 10th

At the termination or dissolution of said Partnership, no new Contract, Adventure, purchase, or undertaking shall be made or engaged in, but all the Accounts and Business of the Company shall be closed as soon as the nature and

Circumstances of the Business will admitt~~e~~; and after payment of all just Debts of the said Company the remainder of the Monies, Stock and Effects shall be equally divided as fast as the Circumstances will permitt~~e~~ amongst the said Parties Viz one third to each of them, or their proper legal Representative; and in like manner in Case of Loss the same shall be equally borne; it being understood that all Losses, Charges and Expences of the Company are to be brought to the Debit of Profit and Loss Account each Year, all Commissions, Profit and Gains to the Credit of it; and the Account of Profit and Loss is to be Ballanced by charging or Crediting, as the Case may require, the Stock account of each party with one third of the Balance of the said Profit and Loss Account; whereby it will be seen each Year how far the Stock of the respective Parties is encreased, or diminished.

Article 11th

In Case of the Death of William Constable before the termination or dissolution of the Copartnership, the surviving Partners shall at the joint Expence of the Partnership employ some capable, carefull and responsible Person (to be approved of by the Executors or Administrators of the said William Constable) to wind up and close the Affairs of the Copartnership, and after paying the just Debts to make due Division as aforesaid.

Article 12th

The said parties shall each of them exert his outmost Abilities to fulfill the Engagements by Him above

stipulated, so as to promote the true Interest of the Copartnership. And for the due performance of the said Engagements Each of the said Parties doth bind Himself, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators in the penal Sum of Twenty thousand Pounds Current money aforesaid.

In Witness whereof the Parties to these Presents have hereunto interchangeably sett their Hands and Seals this tenth Day of May in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty four

Sealed and Delivered

In the presence of

Jos: Stretch

Robt Heysham

Robt Morris

Gouv Morris

Wm. Constable

The witnesses to the partnership contract of May 10, 1785 are Joseph Stretch and Robert Heysham, both of Philadelphia and both having been and ~~then being~~ employed ~~United States~~ in ~~the~~ treasury operations of the United States in Philadelphia. This indicates that the partnership contract was signed by Gouverneur Morris and Robert Morris in Philadelphia.

See: the Papers of Robert Morris

pp 262, 263, 541

pp 296, 297, 541

Stretch worked for ^{Robert} Morris as Supt of Finance.
In Mar 1783 both Stretch & Heysham worked as
clerks in Dept of Finance and Marine
in Phila.

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, May 10, 1784

ENDORSED: Articles of Copartnership/Inter. Robt Morris/Govr. Morris/Wm Constable/and/John Rucker/dated 10 June 1784/to Continue 7 Years from/that date/Octo to Dec 88----381

The year 1789---1441

D-----1790---1282

Jany to Aug 1791---1600

4704

£1600 per A[nnum?]

MS: DS, Miscellaneous Manuscripts, William Constable and Company, NH.

1. On the formation of William Constable and Company, later Constable, Rucker and Company, see also William Constable to RM, November 21, 1783, and notes, RM to John Rucker, June 18, to Tench Tilghman, June 22, and to Benjamin Franklin, August 24 (Mfm), Gouverneur Morris to the Marquis de Chastellux, June 17-July 1, and William Edgar to Gouverneur Morris, October 13, 1784. The firm was located at Constable's residence on Great Dock Street (now Pearl Street), one block from Coenties Slip, and on Mill Street (now South William Street) in New York City. See Emily Williams, "The Luck of the Irish: A Biographical Sketch of William Constable," Lewis County Historical Society, Journal, V (1975), 11-12; and the New York City Directory for 1786. On the activities of this partnership, which

. Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, May 10, 1784

ended in 1791, see the Constable-Pierrepont Papers, NN;
William A. Davis, "William Constable: New York Merchant and Land Speculator, 1772-1803," Ph.D. diss., Harvard University, 1955; and Donald G. Tailby, "Chapters from the Career of William Constable: A Merchant of Post-Revolutionary New York," Ph.D. diss., Rutgers University, 1961.

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and William Constable, May 10, 1784

William Constable and Company was formed in May 1784, with Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris and William Constable as partners. By June 1784 John Rucker had joined the firm, which was then renamed Constable, Rucker and Company. William Constable served as acting partner in New York, while Rucker left for Europe in late August or September to handle the firm's business there. The firm was capitalized at £15,000 Pennsylvania; Robert Morris advanced £10,000 Pennsylvania, or £10,666.13.4 New York currency, as his own share and Gouverneur Morris's share of the capital. Because of Constable's financial difficulties derived from his former partnership of Constable and Seagrove, William Edgar, a longtime friend who married the sister of Constable's wife in 1784, advanced Constable's portion of the capital. Constable, Rucker and Company was dissolved upon Rucker's death in 1788, but the other partners continued in business together in the firm of William Constable and Company until 1791. Gouverneur Morris who left for Europe in December 1788 subsequently handled the firm's business there. Once the partnership expired in 1791 Constable joined his brother James in the firm of William and James Constable and moved to London for the period 1791-1795, leaving James as acting partner in New York. Although no longer partners, Constable, RM, and Gouverneur Morris continued to cooperate in various business ventures until RM's ultimate bankruptcy. See Constable to James Phyn, December 8, 1787, to John Ross,

Articles of Partnership, Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and
William Constable, May 10, 1784

August 25, 1788, to Alexander Ellice, May 23 and November 7,
1789, to Gouverneur Morris, August 3, 1791, Constable
Letterbooks, Constable-Pierrepont Papers, NN; Tailby,
"William Constable," 177-178, 183-184, 202, 203.

To John Rucker, June 18, 1784

1. London-born John Rucker (d. 1788) was a member of an international mercantile family with connections in England, Germany, and France. The London branch was founded by John-Anthony Rucker (ca. 1718-1804), born in Hamburg and naturalized by act of Parliament in March 1744/5, and subsequently a partner in such merchant firms as Amyand, Rucker and Company (with member of Parliament George Amyand), then John-Anthony and John-Peter Rucker, and finally in John-Anthony Rucker and Company, and in a merchant bank called Dorrien, Ruckers, Dorrien and Martin. His firms were active in trade with Germany and Russia and with the West Indies.

John Rucker had previously served as a clerk or assistant to Jonathan Nesbitt and Company at Lorient, a trading partner of RM and of Constable and Seagrove. Rucker's decision to come to the United States may have been precipitated by the financial difficulties then confronting Jonathan Nesbitt and Company.

Rucker was taken into partnership in William Constable and Company (thereafter, Constable, Rucker, and Company). Rucker was immediately assigned to conduct the new firm's

To John Rucker, June 18, 1784

European business. Departing about September 1784, he went first to France, then established himself in London. Rucker died in New York in 1788 shortly after jeopardizing RM's credit and his own by failing to accept bills drawn on him to meet interest payments on the foreign loans of the United States and transactions associated with RM's tobacco contract with the Farmers General. He gave as one reason for his actions the threat of his uncle (John-Anthony Rucker?) to disinherit him if he accepted American bills. Constable, Rucker and Company was dissolved after Rucker's death, but the partnership continued under the firm of William Constable and Company until 1791. See the articles of partnership of RM, Gouverneur Morris and William Constable of May 10, and notes, Gouverneur Morris to Chastellux, June 17-July 1, and RM to Tench Tilghman, June 8 and June 22, and to Franklin, August 24 (Mfm); Rucker to Benjamin Franklin, February 11, 1782, Franklin Papers, PPAmP; and van Winter, Dutch Investment, I, 280, 287-288. For an overview of his career, see the Constable, Rucker and Company correspondence and accounts in the Constable-Pierrepoint Papers, NN. The editors wish to thank Harry Duckworth of the University of Manitoba for assistance in procuring data on the Rucker family.

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CM: use of 7 - 1784
To Tench Tilghman

Philadelphia 2d September 1784

Dear Sir

You have enclosed a Letter for Monsr. Le Vaigneur the Gentleman who came over in the Ship The Admiral D'Estaing and who has been soliciting the Congress on the Subject of Mr. De Beaumarchais Claims against the United States. A Copy of this Letter is enclosed for your Perusal. With respect to the Subject matter of it, the Sum mentioned to be in the Hands of Mr De Beaumarchais is one Remnant of a loosing Transaction not yet adjusted. Mr Deane interested me in a Privateer the Audacieux. My money was paid. The affair was so mismanaged that the Vessell did not proceed. Losses of course ensued. The Agents employed by Mr De Beaumarchais were not to be found but he being one of the Concerned pursued the Matter and collected some of the Funds. I expect at any rate to be a considerable Looser and even the thirty six thousand Livres in question ought to have been repaid to me long since. I mention these things that you being apprized of the nature of the affair may get for me the Property as speedily and as easily as may be. For I have not so great Confidence in what is written to me as to venture bills on Mr De Beaumarchais (but this enter nous).

It will probably become a question between Mr Le

Vaigneur and you to what amount he is to Pay. The Exchange
of 7/6 for 5n⁷~~7~~ is the present rate but is more perhaps
than he may think right. It is best not to stick at Trifles
and therefore if he proposes the french Par viz. 5n⁷~~7~~ 5s
for a Dollar it will be best to receive the Money at that
rate being \$6,857 12/90 or perhaps he may be content to Pay
1500 Louis d'ors which is the amount in the french Currency
and which will (you know) answer better with us.

I must entreat you to write to me pretty fully on this
subject should any difficulties occur. Believe me always
Dear Sir Your Friend and Servant

Robt Morris

Tench Tilghman Esqr.

Sench Highman Esq^r

Baltimore

17th Nov -
1. 1st Nov -
2. 2nd Nov -
3. 3rd Nov -
4. 4th Nov -
5. 5th Nov -
6. 6th Nov -
7. 7th Nov -
8. 8th Nov -
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26. 26th Nov -
27. 27th Nov -
28. 28th Nov -
29. 29th Nov -
30. 30th Nov -
31. 31st Nov -

2. 3. 4. 5.
1904

Dear Sir

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Messrs. De Baryear the Gentleman who came over on the Ship
The Admiral D'Estaing and who has been soliciting the Congress
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United States. A Copy of this Letter is enclosed for your Perusal.
With respect to the Subject matter, yet the Sum mentioned to be
in the Hands of Mr. De Beaumarchais is one Remnant of a
loosing Transaction not yet adjusted. Mr. Linn introduced me in
a Privateer the Guatana. My money was paid. The affair
was so mismanaged that the Capt. did not present Copies of
course issued. The Agents Employed by Mr. De Beaumarchais
was not to be found but he being one of the concerned pursued the
matter and collected some of the Funds. I suspect at any rate to
be a considerable Loss and even the thirty or thousand dollars
in question ought to have been repaid to me long since. - I
mention these things that you being apprized of the Nature
of the affair may get for me the Property as speedily & as easily
as may be. For I have not so great Confidence in what is

is written to me as to certain bill on M^r De Beaumarchais
(but this enters none)

It will probably become a question between M^r Le
Vergneur and you to what amount he is to Pay. The Exchange
of 7/6 for 5^l is the present rate but is more perhaps than he
may think right. It is best not to stick at Truffles and therefore
if he proposes the French Par say 5^l 5^s ^{for 2000} it will be best to receive
the money at that rate being £ 6867 ¹²/₉₀ or perhaps he may be
content to Pay 1500 Louis d'ors which is the amount in the
French Currency and which with (you know) answer better with us

I must entreat you to write to me pretty fully on this
subject should any difficulties occur Believe me always

Dear Sir

Your Friend & Serv^t
Robt Morris

Thos Fitzhman Esq

Gentlemen

Philad May 5th 1863

I duly received your favor of the 3^d with its Enclosure. - The Bank has made no Discounts for a Considerable time, and it was with extreme difficulty that they Consented in the present instance. indeed they would only do it by giving Post Notes for the amount, payable in 32 days, and even in this they consider it as a particular Indulgence. - At last you have a Sketch of the Discounts, and punctual payment of the note will be expected when it becomes due. - You will receive by the Bearer a Box containing \$2000. say: Coins \$50, Dollars 1550. - No more of this formers were to be procured. ~~and~~ I detain you for the same \$750. -

I am Sir
Yours obt^d h^l friend
J. Morris

all Hellenian Note \$5000

Deduct Discount 26.60

\$4973.30 -

no 472 to 516 - is 45 of 100 \$4500

453, 454, 455 - is 3 of 100 - 300

no 517 - 1 - 100 - 30

\$4973.30

Messrs Constable Rucker & Co New York

Miss Constance Rucker of Philad^a June 30th 1786
Gent^{le}

Your several Letters of the 24th 25th & 28th of Jun^y came duly to hand, the first of them by Mr. Turman; who would have returned sooner had you mentioned the sum you wished to receive by him - but in this respect you leave me entirely in the dark. and altho you have furnished my Account Current yet this does not enable me to judge whether any or what sum is due from me to you, consequently I cannot tell what I ought to remit. If you had told me how much I owe it should have been sent, if you want more than I owe I had told me so, I would if possible comply with your Wishes, but as you mention neither one or the other of Mr. Turman can give me information I suppose your wants are not great

Mine are very great, therefore have directed
Mr. Livingston to make up \$3000 to \$4000 in silver
I send Mr. Furmen with it, I hope this sum
will be satisfactory & in future you will be
kind enough to tell me explicitly the sum you
want of the footing on which you ask it.

On Comparing your old A/c with my Books
I find you charge May 6th W. Alexander 40^o favour
of R. Bowne £137. 6. 3 N York Cunt. whereas I
have charged W. Alexander 40^o credited you for that
bill \$433 ³⁰/₁₀₀ equal to £173. 6. 8 N York Cunt. You
charge J^r Piers draft on J^r White Annapolis
23 of June £152. 3. 8. whereas I credit you for
draft \$386 ⁴¹/₁₀₀ equal to £154. 11. 8 N York Cunt.
Therefore I close your old A/c in my Books by
placing at your Credit in a new A/c this day
£11638. 5. 9 Pennsylv^a equal to £12414. 3. 5 ¹/₂ New York
Currency being the balance according to the A/c
You have

2
rendered. I debit you also in the New Ad. for
Short Charge on W. A. G. bill to Brown or Brown 36—
Short Charge on J. Pierce's draft on J. White ... 2.8.0

Cost of 240 Bottles of Claret sent me by Mr.

Rucker £26.11.8 for 145 £46.10.5; 74/2 49.12.5.

and if I am right in these Credits you will conform
thereto, you have sup^d W. A. G. bill above mentioned
Consequently can determine who is right.

You Charge on the 16th May W. A. G. draft
in fav^r of J. J. Mordecai £120. you charge another
the 3^d of April to same J. J. Mordecai £120. This last I
have credited, the other is not in my Books, but a
draft at same time for the same sum £120 or
\$300 fav^r of C. Lee is at your Credit in my Books
not charged by you, therefore I suppose these two
to be one of the same bill, my entry expressing in
whose favour it was drawn & yours to whom you
paid it, but I wish this matter to be examined
and if in future you would enter the date, right
favour, sum in Dollars & sum in New York City of every
bill you pay, your accounts will be more perfect.

my takes more easily rectified and the ^{extra} trouble is
amply compensated by the satisfaction which
results. I shall have to discharge you with all
the sums you committed on the Virginia Loan ^{from}
from the Treasury as there is no prospect of
payment in any reasonable time, and the
drafts given in payment for Bills \$20,000 -
will return protested for which I am very sorry.
I never doubted the kindness of your intentions by
committing to Messrs. W. Alexander & Co but I repeat
my desire on that subject, and in future all such
must come to me in the first instance. I not
only wish to close the accounts of the Emperors of
China, but of the Comptre D'Artois also, the
sum in this last ^{case} lies very heavy on me -
If you meet an opportunity I wish you would ship ten
pipes of Brandy to D'Artois, to address of Messrs. Harrison
Nicholls & Co at Portsmouth getting the freight as low
as you can. Pray have you received the Nine Boxes of Claret
they sent you, it is excellent Wine. I propose your
ship either for Havre or Dieppe if the Tonnage she carries
is of good quality, or for Bordeaux or Morlain if

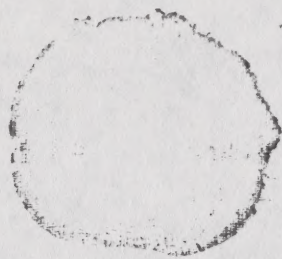
if the quality is not of the best, I will agree to
 load her in 60 days if she goes to Chesapeake, but she
 shall, if possible if it is most probable, be dispatched in
 less than 30 days, in France I require 20 Working
 days & shall probably get her dispatched in half
 the time. If you load her in New York the sooner
 you dispatch her the better and if the North Carolina
 Feb comes you will be able to do it. I will not
 purchase Mr Jacobson's ship, but shall charter
 her if he chooses. I am Gent^l

Your obed^t slave

J. Morris

Bag cont ^g D ^{oll} & f ^{ur} 1380	
1 do - do 1000	
with a packet	
cont ^g 903 - 3 - 70	807 - 70
	3182 - 70

Wmth Constable Rucker & Co
 New York



Robt. Morris
Philad^a 30th June 1836

and S. Ingham

— 11th June 1836 —

Wm. B. Gould & Co.
New York

Mr^l Constable Rucker & Co Philad^a August 12th 1786
Gent^l

I have before me your several favours of the 7th 8th & two of the 9th Inst. Mr Hopkin's bill is good, Al^l his draft on Chat^l Lee I have remitted but Mr Alexander has said nothing about the \$3750 - from Hopkins of Pickett the other drafts you mention he has advised off of I credit for them Apr Harrison Pickolls & Co's draft \$35 89/6. I am distressed to think that you will be disappointed of receiving Money equal to your expectations from Mr Cattrington but the Bank refuse all discounts & have thereby hampered me most curiously. The best People here cannot fulfill their engagements Money is so extremely scarce and it is with great difficulty I can get sufficient to look from one week to another I would most cheerfully Aid your Union or make you remittances but at present it is not possible This situation may soon be changed therefore make the best stand

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You can tell me what Sum you wish want
I wished to have applied the Money of Fifty Dollars
as I told you. Money is scarce here — pray
forward the enclosed to Mr Rucker by the Mercury.

Pray what is the bargain about these Bonds
of Ben Harrison for I do not understand it.

I am Gent^l

Your Obedt^l Servant

Robt Morris

New York

Miss^{es} Loustable Rucker & Co Philad.^a Oct^r 8. 1787

Gent^l.

I have rec^d your favour of
the 24th ult^o. with your notes for \$3000 of \$2000.
together five Thousand Doll^{rs} with which I shall
take up the first that falls due of those in Works.

Y^r favour of the 2^d, Gent^l advises of a draft
on me in favour of M^r Travis but does not
mention the Sum, it will be honoured, pray
deliver the enclosed to E. M. or cause it to be
delivered & oblige Yours Shd^lble Servant

R^o Morris

all the Adventurers in
Tobacco are terribly disappointed.